Pencil Drawing of Smoke: Wisps, Density and Shading

Ordinary topic reference / separately checked pixels



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Original worked example / unchanged complete key

Prompt: Draw a plume 12 cm tall and 4 cm wide with three density zones and four wisps. Use a hypothetical stroke ratio of 2:1 between adjacent zones.

Answer: Centerline 12 cm; dense core from 0 to 4 cm, medium from 4 to 8 cm, faint from 8 to 12 cm. Four wisps: two short S-curves near the core, one medium C-curve at mid-height, one long tapered wisp at the top. Hypothetical stroke spacing: dense core about 2 mm, medium about 4 mm, faint about 8 mm, giving the 2:1 ratio between adjacent zones. Top third left mostly white with eraser lifts at wisp tips. Check: measure 12 cm by 4 cm (3:1 ratio), count strokes in a 1 cm square per zone to confirm the 2:1 steps, and view from one metre to confirm the core is darkest and the top faintest.